

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01
CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FPC-01 H-01
INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 OES-06
SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 PA-01 PRS-01 IO-13
NRC-05 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /125 W
-----031109Z 036715 /14

O R 022155Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9925

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, ENRG, BR, GW

SUBJ: GOB RESPONSE TO SECRETARY VANCE INTERVIEW ON NUCLEAR ACCORD

1. SUMMARY. ITAMARATY FEB. 1 RELEASED BRIEF STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO SECRETARY'S PROPOSAL TO DELAY IMPLEMENTATION OF NUCLEAR ACCORD. IN STATEMENT GOB SAW NO POSSIBILITY OF INTERRUPTING OR POSTPONING THE ACCORD'S IMPLEMENTATION. ESTADO IN BACKGROUNDER CLAIMED SECRETARY'S PROPOSAL PROVOKED A STRONG REACTION FROM GOB, WHICH HAD WISHED TO MINIMIZE DEBATE AND SPECULATION ON ISSUE. PAPER ADDED GOVERNMENT WAS PREPARED TO DISCUSS ADDITIONAL SAFEGUARDS AGAINST NUCLEAR WEAPONS PRODUCTION, BUT WAS DETERMINED TO DEFEND ITS RIGHT TO ENERGY INDEPENDENCE. WHILE SECRETARY'S INTERVIEW HAS BEEN RECEIVED WITH RETURN OF SOME EMOTION AND INDIGNATION THAT HAD BEEN ATTENUATED BY SECRETARY'S JAN. 27 COMMUNICATION, GOB'S UNSTRIDENT REPLY DOES NOT EXCLUDE FURTHER CONSULTATION. END SUMMARY.

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2. AFTER WIDELY PUBLICIZED HOUR-LONG MEETING ON FEB. 1 BETWEEN PRESIDENT GEISEL AND FOREIGN MINISTER SILVEIRA, FOREIGN MINISTRY RELEASED THROUGH ITS SPOKESMAN, MINISTER BRNADAO, FOLLOWING SHORT STATEMENT, LABELLED AS SPECIFIC RESPONSE TO REMARKS OF SECRETARY VANCE AT JAN. 31 PRESS CONFERENCE RE DELAY IN IMPLEMENTATION IN GOB-FRG NUCLEAR AGREEMENT: "THE BRAZILIAN

GOVERNMENT DOES NOT SEE THE POSSIBILITY OF INTERRUPTING OR POSTPONING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NUCLEAR AGREEMENT." THIS STATEMENT, FRAMED AS RESPONSE TO HYPOTHETICAL QUESTION BASED ON SECRETARY'S PORPOSAL FOR DELAYED IMPLEMENTATION AND PREPARED ON PLAIN (NOT OFFICIAL) STATIONERY, AS PRESS WAS CAREFUL TO NOTE, CONSTITUTED SOLE INFORMATION RELEASED ON HIGH LEVEL DISCUSSIONS.

3. IN EXTENSIVE BACKGROUND REPORTING ON GOB'S REPLY, ESTADO FEB. 2 SAID STATEMENT SIGNIFIES CHANGE OF ATTITUDE BY THE GOB, WHICH HAD WANTED TO REMAIN SILENT TO MINIMIZE PUBLIC DEBATE AND SPECULATION, AND ALSO TO ALLOW U.S. PRESSURE TO BE DIRECTED AGAINST THE FRG. ESTADO CONTINUED THAT SECRETARY'S STATEMENT PROVOKED A STRONG REACTION BY THE GOVERNMENT, WHICH JUDGED THE SECRETARY'S INTERVIEW AS INCONVENIENT, UNDIPLOMATIC AND A HUMILIATION FOR AN EMERGING POWER LIKE BRAZIL. ESTADO QUOTED A BRAZILIAN DIPLOMAT WHO SAID "IT WOULD BE A MANIFESTATION OF SUBMISSION AND EVIDENCE OF PATERNALISM UNACCEPTABLE IN THE WORLD TODAY" FOR BRAZIL AND THE FRG TO WAIT UNTIL THE U.S. STUDIED THE SUBJECT. ESTADO SAID ITAMARATY FELT COMPELLED TO RESPOND TO THE SECRETARY'S INTERVIEW OFFICIALLY BUT NOT THROUGH OFFICIAL CHANNELS BECAUSE SECRETARY HAD COMMUNICATED WITH GOB THROUGH THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS, THUS ITAMARATY'S "UNOFFICIAL" OFFICIAL UTTERANCE OF YESTERDAY.

4. IN BACKGROUNDER, ESTADO REITERATED THAT GOB WOULD DISCUSS ADDITIONAL SAFEGUARDS AGAINST NUCLEAR WEAPONS PRODUCTION, BUT WOULD NOT DROP ANY ELEMENT OF THE ACCORD WHICH WOULD MAKE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IT DEPENDENT UPON EXTERNAL SOURCES OF NUCLEAR FUEL. BRAZIL WOULD DEFEND FIRMLY ITS RIGHT TO ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AND WAS CONFIDENT THE USG UNDERSTOOD THIS. IT DID NOT WANT TO BREAK WITH THE U.S. OR WORSEN RELATIONS WITH A TRADITIONAL FRIEND, AND WOULD MAINTAIN A DISCREET ATTITUDE TOWARD THE U.S. ON THE SUBJECT OF THE NUCLEAR ACCORD, ESTADO CLAIMED.

5. IN RELATED REACTION TO U.S. PRESSURES AGAINST NUCLEAR ACCORD FEBRUARY 1, ESTADO QUOTED UNNAMED GOB DIPLOMATIC SOURCES WHO INDICATED THAT SECRETARY'S WORDS WERE VERY AGGRESSIVE AND NOT TOO DIPLOMATIC PARTICULARLY CONSIDERING THAT THEY HAD BEEN DIRECTED TO A FRIENDLY COUNTRY. THESE SOURCES ALSO CHARACTERIZED THE CARTER STAFF AS BEING CONTENTIOUS AND EXPRESSING A "CERTAIN AMATEURISM" IN THE FORMULATION OF FOREIGN POLICY. THESE SOURCES OBSERVED THAT THIS IS CHARACTERISTIC OF A GOVERNMENT WHICH INITIATES ITS PROGRAMS WITH "EXCESSIVE ZEAL."

6. ESTADO ALSO NOTED FEBRUARY 1 THAT MINISTER UEKI'S IMMEDIATE

STAFF IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND ENERGY ADMITTED THAT DISCUSSION OF THE NUCLEAR QUESTION WAS TABOO. ONE STAFF MEMBER INDICATED THAT NOTHING IS LOST BY WAITING, WHILE OTHERS SPOKE OUT AGAINST AMERICAN PRESSURES WITH SOME STAFF MEMBERS REFERRING TO THE U.S. AS "OUR EX-FRIEND FROM THE NORTH."

7. JORNAL DO BRASIL FEBRUARY 1 NOTED THAT AMONG THE MILITARY THERE WAS A CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM ABOUT THE SUBJECT WITH MOST BELIEVING THERE WOULD BE NO MODIFICATION OF THE ACCORD. AT THE SAME TIME JORNAL NOTED THAT MILITARY SOURCES SHOWED IRRITATION WITH THE U.S. AND SOME SUGGESTED A RECALL OF THE BRAZILIAN AMBASSADOR TO WASHINGTON TO SHOW GOB DISCONTENT WITH AMERICAN PRESSURES.

8. ESTADO ALSO PUBLISHED FEBRUARY 2 THE COMPLETE TEXT OF THE IAEA SAFEGUARDS ENCOMPASSED IN THE FRG-GOB ACCORDS. ALTHOUGH OPENLY AVAILABLE THROUGH THE IAEA, THE SAFEGUARDS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HAD NOT PREVIOUSLY BEEN PUBLISHED IN BRAZIL, PERHAPS BECAUSE THE GOB HAS BEEN RELUCTANT TO ADMIT THE DEGREE OF SOVEREIGNTY AND CONTROL IN ITS NUCLEAR PROGRAM THAT IT HAS SURRENDERED TO A FOREIGN ENTITY.

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INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 OES-06
SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 PA-01 PRS-01 IO-13
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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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9. ITAMARATY'S REPLY TO SECRETARY'S INTERVIEW WAS GREETED ENTHUSIASTICALLY BY GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSITION POLITICIANS. MDB SENATORS MAURO BENEVIDES AND FRANCO MONTORO EXPRESSED THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE ACCORD AND SOLIDARITY WITH PRESIDENT GEISEL IN HIS RESISTANCE TO FOREIGN PRESSURE. ARENISTA JARBAS PASSARINHO, WHILE EXPRESSING SYMPATHY FOR U.S. CONCERN ABOUT PROLIFERATION, EMPHASIZED THAT SUCH CONCERN IS UNJUSTIFIED WITH REGARD TO THE BRAZIL-FRG NUCLEAR ACCORD, WHOSE ENDS ARE SOLELY PEACEFUL. DEPUTY SEBASTIAO RODRIGUES (MDB-PR) SAID THAT THE MDB WOULD SUPPORT ANY MEASURE DESIGNED TO GUARD BRAZILIAN NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY AND WOULD VEHEMENTLY REJECT ANY FORM OF FOREIGN INTERFERENCE IN NATIONAL POLITICS. BRASILIA NEWSPAPERS WERE ALSO FAVORABLY NOTING THE ALMOST UNANIMOUS SUPPORT OF THE ARGENTINE MEDIA FOR BRAZIL'S REFUSAL TO RENEGOTIATE THE NUCLEAR ACCORD.

10. COMMENT. IF ESTADO BACKGROUND SOURCES ARE AUTHORITATIVE, AND WE BELIEVE THEY ARE, IT APPEARS SECRETARY'S INTERVIEW HAS BEEN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RECEIVED BY THE GOB WITH A RETURN OF SOME OF THE EMOTION AND INDIGNATION THAT HAD BEEN ATTENUATED BY THE SECRETARY'S JANUARY 27 COMMUNICATIONS. ON POSITIVE SIDE GOB'S REPLY IS UNSTRIDENT AND THE MANNER OF DELIVERY IS MORE LOW-KEY THAN IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN. THE STATEMENT DOES NOT EXCLUDE FURTHER CONSULTATION. THE GOB HAS NOT YET INDICATED, NOR HAS THE PRESS INTIMATED, ANYTHING ABOUT HOW AND WHEN THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO REPLY TO THE SECRETARY'S JANUARY 27 LETTER OR ORAL MESSAGE. CRIMMINS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Concepts: NUCLEAR AGREEMENTS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 02-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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